

Message Text

SECRET

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73

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 IO-14 DRC-01 /106 W

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R 180345Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6190

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T KABUL 8539

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IR, AF

SUBJECT: IRAN-AFGHAN RELATIONS

REF: TEHRAN 8777

1. WE WILL BE COMMENTING FURTHER IN NEAR FUTURE ON OUR IMPRESSIONS OF OVERALL STATE IRAN-AFGHAN RELATIONS. NEWS IN REFTEL THAT NEW AFGHAN AMBASSADOR GETTING OFF TO GOOD START IS OF COURSE WELCOME. AMBIGUITY OF IRANIAN VIEW DESCRIBED IN REFTEL NOT SURPRISING HOWEVER IN VIEW OF EVENTS OF RECENT MONTHS.

2. I HAD OPPORTUNITY TALK INFORMALLY WITH DEPFONMIN WAHID ABDULLAH AT DINNER DECEMBER 15 ABOUT THIS SUBJECT. HE EMPHASIZED AGAIN GOA'S DESIRE IMPROVE ITS RELATIONS WITH TEHRAN, AND MADE IMPLIED PREDICTION THAT HELMAND WATERS AGREEMENT WOULD CERTAINLY BE RATIFIED EVENTUALLY HERE. HE SAID THAT THERE REMAINS ONLY ONE SMALL ISSUE TO SETTLE BEFORE TREATY IS ACCEPTABLE AND THAT THIS COULD BE SOLVED IN A FEW MINUTES WHEN TIME WAS RIPE. PROBLEM IS THAT POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE NOT RIPE AT PRESENT FOR AT LEAST TWO REASONS: CERTAIN STRONG SUPPORTERS OF CURRENT REGIME HAVE PUBLICLY ATTACKED TREATY IN PAST AS "SELL OUT" AND THEIR VIEWS MUST BE SOFTENED BY PASAGE OF TIME AND EVENTS. MOREOVER, ABDULLAH CONFIRMED BY IMPLICATION POINT WE HAVE HEARD PREVIOUSLY,

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NAMELY THAT SO LONG AS SHAFIQ TRIAL NOT COMPLETE OR AT LEAST HIS

FATE NOT FINALLY DETERMINED, IRAN ISSUE REMAINS PARTICULARLY DELICATE. AS WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, ONE MAJOR CHARGE AGAINST SHAFIQ IN TRIAL WAS REPORTEDLY HIS PARTICIPATION IN BRIBERY OF DEPUTIES AND RECEIPT OF IRANIAN FUNDS HIMSELF TO PUSH TREATY THROUGH.

3. ABDULLAH MADE SPECIAL POINT OF SAYING "HE HOPED IRAN WOULD NOT RAISE TREATY ISSUE WITH AFGHANS FOR TIME BEING." BUT ALL INDICATIONS FROM HIM AND OTHERS ARE THAT DAOUD WANTS TO GO AHEAD WITH RATIFICATION SOMETIME IN COMING MONTHS.

4. ABDULLAH ALSO MADE POINT THAT SHAH SHOULD REALIZE THAT DAOUD IS, FROM IRAN'S AS WELL AS AFGHANISTAN'S STANDPOINT, BEST POSSIBLE LEADER FOR AFGHANISTAN AT PRESENT TIME. HE WILL NO DOUBT PLAY THAT THEME ALSO IN TEHRAN.

5. DEPT MAY WISH REPEAT THIS MESSAGE PLUS REFTTEL TO ISLAMABAD.
ELIOT

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NNN

Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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